REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Species 1 which is readable on claims 1-4, 6, 13-18, 20 and 27-28. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 15 to provide for "means for indicating a level of wear". Applicants believe that claims 1 and 15 are generic to Species I, II and III and that this amendment to claims 1 and 15 also make these claims generic to Species IV.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

Ronald R. Santucci Reg. No. 28,988 (212) 588-0800